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Letter dated 26 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to refer to the letter from the representative of Kuwait to the United Nations that was circulated as document S/2001/412. That letter speaks of the intentions Iraq has for Kuwait, "which are other than peaceful and are, indeed, hostile". In view of the fact that the Kuwaiti regime is continuing to voice these allegations in order to conceal the true nature of the hostile intentions with respect to Iraq that it communicates in both word and deed, I should like to state the facts set forth hereunder.

1. The Kuwaiti regime continues to employ the resources, territory and airspace of Kuwait in order to commit aggression against Iraq and perpetuate the iniquitous embargo being maintained against it. Since 1992, on a daily basis, United States and British aircraft have been taking off from bases in Kuwait to kill Iraqi citizens and destroy Iraqi civilian installations. Your reports to the Security Council on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, the most recent of which was that circulated as document S/2001/287, clearly show that there are constant violations of the demilitarized zone by aircraft based in Kuwaiti territory. In the relevant letters addressed to you on a regular basis by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iraq has always stressed that the logistic support provided to the Americans and British by Kuwait makes that country a partner in the aggression committed against Iraq and that it thus incurs international responsibility under international law, including liability for full compensation for the losses and damage, in both human and material terms, that are caused by this aggression.

My Government addresses an appeal in this connection to the countries participating in the aggression to desist forthwith from unlawful actions that violate Iraq's sovereignty and jeopardize its security and integrity, and it is determined to confront them in a most resolute manner. This is a matter that pertains to the core of the Government of Iraq's responsibility to defend the Iraqi people, and it is a question of a right that is guaranteed by all the relevant international covenants and by the rules and norms of international law.

2. Since 1991, the Kuwaiti regime has been pursuing a fixed policy of interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and supporting and funding terrorist groups of proxies and mercenaries that seek to undermine Iraq's stability and to jeopardize its security and the safety of its people. Many of these terrorist organizations have their headquarters in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti regime uses its information media to promote them, and officials of the regime meet with them at the highest levels. The Kuwaiti

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regime has also not been hesitant in calling for a change of the political regime in Iraq. With his letter dated 18 June 1998 addressed to you (S/1998/580, annex), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq enclosed a list of examples of statements made by senior Kuwaiti officials and of meetings held with leading figures of the so-called Iraqi opposition. The rulers of Kuwait have persisted with this habit of interfering openly in the internal affairs of Iraq and threatening its sovereignty and stability and the security of the region. Here are some recent examples of such statements:

Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Minister of Oil, stated to Agence France-Presse on 12 March 1999 that "We want to see a clear end to the currently existing regime in Iraq", adding "We would like to work with the Iraqis to find an alternative to the currently existing regime";

On 27 September 2000 the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah* called for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime, saying "Any action for its overthrow has become a necessary option for the region and the international community";

On 24 April 2001 the Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs stated to the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Ra'y al-Amm* that "The Iraqi regime is outside the law".

These practices and statements are manifestly incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, in all of which the Council affirms respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq. They represent a dangerous trend in international relations, and the Kuwaiti regime is to be held fully responsible for the outcome of such acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative